

Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Albatross III Cruise 73 April 17-28, 1956

Sailing orders to Captain Walter Beatteay noted that the ship was to depart Woods Hole and proceed “to Georges Bank and the Gulf of Maine for the purpose of sampling haddock eggs and larvae and to obtain hydrographic data.” The cruise report indicated the purpose of the cruise was “*to determine the distribution of haddock eggs and larvae, temperature and salinity, and the general circulation pattern in the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank area.*” The science party consisted of John B. Colton, Jr. as chief of party and biologists Donald B. Foster and David Miller, all from the fisheries service.

Scientific activities during the cruise included “*continuous plankton tows at two levels with Hardy Plankton Recorders. A bathythermograph lowering every hour, a surface salinity sample and wind observation every two hours, drift bottle releases at specific stations, egg samples with a 1 meter net for hatching and identification every 12 hours, and Loran fixes at half hourly intervals.*” Further instructions noted that “*12 bottles are to be released at the designated stations. These bottles are numbered consecutively and will be packed 24 to the box. A loran fix should be obtained and this position, the time, and bottle numbers should be recorded in the Drift Bottle Log.*”

The ship’s cruise report indicated the ship sailed on April 17 and returned to the Woods Hole fisheries dock on April 28, 1956. During the cruise “*approximately 2500 miles of continuous plankton tows were made at the surface and 10 meters with Hardy Plankton Recorders. 241 bathythermograph lowerings, 120 salinity samples, and 20 surface tows with the standard meter net were made. 18 samples of eggs were hatched out for identification purposes. A total of 800 drift bottles were released through the area.*”

Other cruise results of note: “*Haddock eggs were found at all locations sampled with the net except in the central Gulf of Maine indicating that the spawning of this species extended over a much greater area than that observed during any of our previous cruises. If this widely spread spawn is successful in meeting the vicissitudes of life in the ocean waters, there will be good haddock fishing on Georges Bank three and four years from now. If meteorological and hydrographic conditions are favorable during the coming months a strong year class will develop. Future cruises of Albatross III will follow the drift of these young fish in May and June and a census will be made in September after they have taken up life in the bottom and are no longer at the mercy of the tide and current.*”

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Related link:

Albatross III Fact Sheet: <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/albatross4/pdfs/a3factsheet%20.pdf>